



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 15-057: OAK CREEK ROAD MANAGEMENT

Description of Proposal:

This project addresses roads and trails that are currently open to motor vehicles and in areas outside of the Green Dot Travel Management System. The objectives of this project are to:

1. Implement a road management plan for recently acquired lands on the Oak Creek Unit of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area in areas that are not part of the Green Dot Travel Management System.
2. Improve aquatic and terrestrial systems by abandoning roads and trails that are causing significant resource and environmental damage, primarily in riparian areas.
3. Restore habitat in areas highly degraded by off road vehicle use.
4. Maintain access to adjacent USFS and DNR lands.

To meet the above objectives this project will close about 9.2 miles of road to motorized vehicles. Roads previously bermed or gated will remain closed to vehicles. All other roads in the area will remain open to motorized vehicles.

Closure of roads may require installing gates or berms to block vehicle access, excavation of road prism would occur in isolated areas, all material would be left on site. Open roads may require grading, installation of water bars, and ditches. No new fill material is expected to be needed.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Ross Huffman, Oak Creek Wildlife Area Manager
16601 US Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937
(509) 653-2390
Ross.Huffman@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Oak Creek Wildlife Area, northwest of Yakima, Yakima County, Washington: Township 14N, Range 16E, Sections 17-19; and Township 14N, Range 15E, Sections 25, 33, and 35.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on November 16, 2015**.

Method of Comment: The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: November 2, 2015

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 15-057.dns